

Peking Key to U.S.-Japan Ties

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A conference on the United States and Japan concluded today that each nation's policy toward Communist China is the basic source of discord between them and will be for the foreseeable future.

Talks at the 4-day session of the American Assembly were among 70 Congressmen, high government officials, senior military officers, leading businessmen, and prominent scholars from both countries always had Communist China in the background and often in the foreground.

Panel discussions, leisure conversations and speeches touching on the U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Treaty, Okinawa military bases, Vietnam war, and economic affairs inevitably returned to the fundamental differences between Japanese and American views on China.

Many participants noted that Japan's search to find an accommodation with China contrasts with the United States maintenance of a tough posture of military and political containment.

Japan Is Criticized

The Assembly, an adjunct of Columbia University, was founded by President Eisenhower when he was President of Columbia. The Assembly conducts conferences on subjects of national interest at Arden House, the former estate of the Harriman family here.

The tone of the meeting and the final report reflected the participants' candid restlessness with Japan's failure to fulfill its responsibilities as a major power.

Participants noted that Japan had joined most of the major international councils of the world but did not contribute ideas or talent. They said Japan gained prestige from membership but did not put in commensurate effort.

The report especially urged Japan to increase its support for economic development in South and Southeast Asia. "Japan should try more intensively," the report said, "to communicate her own experience in building a stable economy and society."

Treaty Scrutinized

Several participants noted, however, that this might be difficult due to wartime memories and to differences in language, customs, and social organization.

The U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Treaty, which is the foundation of relations between the two nations, came up for considerable scrutiny by the Assembly. The treaty is subject to review and possible revision by 1970.

Several participants pointed out that the United States requires bases in Japan for logistic, defensive, and possibly strategic counterstrike purposes.

They also said that these bases served Japanese national interests, although many pacifist, neutralist Japanese

would like to see American forces withdrawn. Several speakers said that the Japanese government was not properly informing the Japanese people of the advantage to Japan of American protection.

Another speaker suggested that Japan become a model for other Asian nations in their relations with the United States. He noted that Japan had been able to develop economically in the postwar era because it had not had to pay for arms and because it controlled its birthrate.

Looking to 1970, however, the Assembly reported that because Japanese of all political views are already discussing the treaty's future, the United States would be wise to consider what adjustments it thinks desirable.

Troops Withdrawal

The report added, "The United States and Japan would look to a reduction or phased withdrawal of American forces" when military requirements and technology permit.

On the question of Okinawa, which the Japanese consider a major nationalistic sore spot, the Assembly reported that "present circumstances require that the United States retain the bases on Okinawa."

The Assembly recommended that civil administration on the island be improved. It also urged the American government to move toward an orderly increase in self-government and a gradual transfer of civil authority to Japan, which has residual sovereignty over the island.

The report cautioned that

this should be done without damaging the security and efficiency of American military installations.

The Assembly made no major recommendations on the questions of Communist China and the Vietnam war, which many Japanese and Americans consider to be connected.

Several participants advocated that Japan go ahead with its trade and cultural contacts with mainland China on the grounds that this would provide a channel of communication between China and the outside world and awaken the Japanese to the realities of Chinese political and military intentions.